

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-03 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-04 OIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9792

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, UNGA, EEC, DA

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG

REF: COPENHAGEN 2791 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IT NOW APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
GULDBERG WILL BE SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY A NON-CONFIDENCE
RESOLUTION IN PARLIAMENT ON OCTOBER 11. ALTHOUGH SUCH
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A MOTION WILL PROBABLY BE MADE BY THE RADICAL LEFT, THE

LARGEST PARLIAMENTARY PARTY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, IS LIKELY TO WITHHOLD SUPPORT IN ORDER TO AVOID THE RISK OF A CRISIS WHICH WOULD PRECIPITATE GENERAL ELECTIONS. A HARBINGER OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC WILLINGNESS TO GO TO THE MAT NOW WITH THE GOVERNING LIBERALS, WHO HAVE CLOSED RANKS BEHIND GULDBERG, WILL BE THE COURSE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OCTOBER 10 ON UNEMPLOYMENT. AMONG FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO GULDBERG'S UNHAPPY PLIGHT ARE HIS PERSONAL STYLE, THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOREIGN MINISTERS IN A FUTURE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, THE RECENT SURGE OF ANTI-EC SENTIMENT IN DENMARK AND GULDBERG'S DOUBTFUL ABILITY TO DISCHARGE ADEQUATELY THE FULL RANGE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL REPORTED THE ATTACKS ON FONMIN GULDBERG BECAUSE OF HIS HANDLING OF THE DANISH POSITION ON UN OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE EC. IT NOW APPEARS CLEAR THAT THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF) WILL INTRODUCE A MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN HIM AT THE OCT 11 SESSION OF THE FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT). IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MOTION WILL COME NEAR TO PASSAGE; TO PASS IT THE SF AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP) MUST WIN THE SUPPORT OF MOGENS GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVES AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

2. A FEW DAYS AGO IT APPREARED THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WOULD THEMSELVES TABLE A NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION IN GULDBERG FOR THE REASONS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. PRIME MINISTER HARTLING'S GOVERNING LIBERAL PARTY, HOWEVER, HAS QUICKLY CLOSED RANKS AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE LIBERALS WOULD INTERPRET A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN GULDBERG AS ONE OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE. IF PASSED, HARTLING WOULD RESIGN AND ELECTIONS WOULD BE PRECIPITATED. ALMOST ALL COMMENTATORS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, BELIEVE THAT NO RESPONSIBLE ELEMENT OF DANISH SOCIETY WISHES ANOTHER MAJOR PARLIAMENTARY CONFRONTATION ONLY THREE WEEKS AFTER HARLING NARROWLY SQUEEZED THROUGH ON SEPT 20. AN OUTSIDE CHANCE EXISTS THAT DURING THE COURSE OF PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVERING, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE DKP AND SF MIGHT BE PRESENTED WITH THE SAME KIND OF TACTICAL OPPORTUNITY THEY SO ADROITLY, AND ALMOST SUCCESSFULLY, EXPLOITED ON THAT DATE.

3. IF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE, IN FACT, SERIOUS ABOUT PROVOKING A CONFRONTATION WITH THE LIBERALS, THIS WILL PROBABLY BE SHOWN DURING THE OCT 10 FOLKETING DEBATE ON UNEMPLOYMENT. THE REASONING GOES THAT THE SOCIAL

DEMOCRATS, OR ANY OTHER PARTY FOR THAT MATTER, COULD NOT MAKE MEANINGFUL AND UNDERSTANDABLE TO THE DANISH ELECTORATE THE COMPLICATED AND REMOTE ISSUE OF WHAT GULDBERG MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE DONE AT BRUSSELS AND THE QUALITY OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOLKETING MARKETS COMMITTEE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ISSUE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS ONE WHICH TOUCHES THE RAW NERVES OF A MAJORITY OF DANES.

4. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN SUSPECTED OF WANTING TO DISPOSE OF GULDBERG OR TO BREAK UP THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BETWEEN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ENTITIES UNDER SEPARATE MINISTERS AS UNDER THE PREVIOUS SD GOVERNMENT. THEY PROBABLY JUDGED THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THESE ENDS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT THREATENING THE STATUS OF THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT ITSELF. THIS NOW APPEARS IMPOSSIBLE.

5. THE FORCES AT WORK BEHIND THE ATTEMPT TO INDICT GULDBERG ARE COMPLEX. AMONG FACTORS DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S UNHAPPY PLIGHT ARE HIS OWN PERSONAL STYLE, THE ASPIRATIONS OF CERTAIN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WHO HOPE TO HOLD FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIOS IN A FUTURE GOVERNMENT, THE SURGE OF ANTI-SENTIMENT IN DENMARK COINCIDENT WITH THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER 2 DANISH REFERENDUM ON ACCESSION, AND THE CONTINUING RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF SOME POLITICAL PARTIES HERE TO MAKE ANY MOVE WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS LEADING TO A GROWING POLITICAL COHESION AMONG EC MEMBERS.

6. ASIDE FROM THESE CONSIDERATIONS, SOURCES IN BOTH THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SIDES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TELL US THAT GULDBERG, PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STYLE AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURES OF WORK, DOES NOT TAKE TIME TO READ HIS BRIEFS. THIS OFTEN CREATES DIFFICULTIES IN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS, AT BRUSSELS EC COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ELSEWHERE, WHICH MUST BE LATER REPAIRED BY "CLARIFICATIONS." THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE MINISTRY, IN PARTICULAR, WOULD PROBABLY FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IF THE RESULT OF THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY WOULD BE THE EVENTUAL REESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE FOREIGN ECONOMIC MINISTER.
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